

Message Text

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70

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3408

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 0460

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA BR

SUBJECT: SENATOR JAVITS DISCUSSES ZIONISM RESOLUTION WITH SENIOR
BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 0415 (NOTAL) (B) 75 BRASILIA 10410 (NOTAL)

1. GIVEN ASSURANCES AT OUTSET BY SILVEIRA THAT NO TOPICS WERE
PROHIBITED, IN CONVERSATION JANUARY 7 AT FOREIGN MINISTRY
SENATOR JAVITS SAID HE WAS MINDFUL THAT BRAZIL HAD ITS
REASONS FOR UNGA VOTE AND RESPECTED ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO
VOTE AS IT SAW FIT. BUT SENATOR EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT VOTE
HAD CAUSED PUBLIC REACTION IN US THAT CREATED A PROBLEM
FOR THOSE WANTING TO DEAL WITH BRAZIL AS A GREAT, MATURE
NATION. SILVEIRA RESPONDED BY RECALLING BRAZIL'S HISTORY
OF RECEPTIVENESS TO ALL RACES AND CREEDS AND ITS TRADITION
OF TOLERANCE, STRESSING ABSENCE OF ANTI-SEMITISM HERE AND
FULL ACCEPTANCE ENJOYED BY BRAZILIAN JEWS. HE ONCE AGAIN
MADE POINT THAT UN VOTE WAS IN NO WAY ANTI-SEMITIC, AND
PRESIDENT GEISEL HAD REASSURED BRAZILIAN LEADERS ON THAT
SCORE (REFTEL B). BUT HE STRESSED THAT BRAZIL'S POSITION
WAS INALTERABLE, ADDING THAT BRAZIL WOULD NEVER BACKTRACK
AS HAS MEXICO, WHICH HAS REASON TO BE ASHAMED. HE STATED
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THAT US PROTEST NOTE HAD NOT HELPED SITUATION ADDING THAT

QUIET COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE EFFECTIVE . (SILVEIRA CLAIMED US HAD "RELEASED" NOTE, BUT WHEN AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN THE CASE, HE CORRECTED HIMSELF TO SAY THAT US HAD "ANNOUNCED" NOTE.)

2. JAVITS SAW MATTER AS PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM FOR BRAZIL, WITH MANY PEOPLE UNFORTUNATELY INCLUDED TO EXTRAPOLATE FROM SUCH INCIDENTS AS THE ZIONISM VOTE. THE SENATOR CONSIDERED THAT SENSITIVITY TO POSSIBLE PORTENTS OF ANTI-SEMITISM IS UNDERSTANDABLE IN A WORLD JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT SAW ONE-THIRD OF ITS MEMBERS WIPED OUT DURING WORLD WAR II.

3. JAVITS ALSO RAISED BRAZIL'S VOTE ON ZIONISM IN CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL GOLBERY, CHIEF OF CIVIL HOUSEHOLD. IN REPLY, GOLBERY STATED THAT (A) BECAUSE OF THE VERY LIMITED TIME BETWEEN THE INTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION AND THE FIRST VOTE, THE GOB HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO GIVE THE QUESTION ADEQUATE STUDY AND HAD NOT FULLY ANALYZED THE CONSEQUENCES; (B) THE PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THE US NOTE BY THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN (AT FIRST, HE TOO USED THE PHRASE "PUBLICATION OF THE NOTE"--THE FALSE LINE ASSIDUOUSLY PROPAGATED BY ITAMARATY--BUT ACCEPTED CORRECTION) HAD HAD A NEGATIVE AFFECT; AND (C) BRAZIL'S ABSENCE FROM A VOTE IN UNESCO WAS CAUSED BY UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE MEANING OF THE DOCUMENT BEING ADDRESSED AND LACK OF ADEQUATE TIME TO CLARIFY THE MATTER. (THE IMPLICATION CLEARLY BEING THAT THE GOB WAS NOT BACKTRACKING.)
CRIMMINS

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